

(SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The concept of an Environment Protection Fund at the national level is at a nascent stage.

Andhra Pradesh Rivers under NRCP

3042. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) which are the major rivers in Andhra Pradesh included in the National River Conservation Plan, to improve their water quality; and

(b) what is the present status of work done on these rivers?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) River Godavari has been included under the National River Conservation Plan in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Pollution abatement works in 4 towns namely Bhadrachalam, Mancherial, Rajamundry and Ramagundam have been sanctioned for an amount of Rs. 51.03 crore. A total of 17 schemes have approved so far for an amount of Rs. 18.06 crore out of which 7 schemes have been completed. Central grant amounting to Rs. 12.59 crore have been released so far for implementation of the schemes against which an amount of Rs. 7.68 crore has been spent by the State Government till January, 2001.

Amendments to the Mental Health Act

3043. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Mental Health Act to provide fundamental rights to the persons suffering from mental disease;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received demand in this regard from NGOs and leading psychiatrist of the country; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) No, Sir.

Adequate provisions exist under The Mental Health Act, 1987 which came into effect from 1st April, 1993 to safeguard the fundamental rights to the persons suffering from mental illness.

Misuse of Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act

3044. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the provisions of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act are openly being flouted;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what has been done to prevent misuse of these provisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Only a few cases have been reported from the States of Tamil Nadu, Haryana and Punjab.

(c) The responsibility for implementation of the Act rests with the States. The States/UTs have been advised to mount an effective awareness campaign to sensitise both the public as well as the health care providers about the provisions of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Technique Act. The States/UTs have also been advised to register all health facilities and clinics that could be using ultra-sonography equipment. Further leading Non-Government Organisations have been requested to adopt and pursue projects for generating awareness about the provisions of the PNDT Act among doctors/clinics/law enforcing authorities and the public at large. States/UTs must provide protection to social activists/NGOs who file complaints about violation of the PNDT Act.

World Bank Aided Health Projects in Himachal Pradesh

3045. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some World Bank aided health care projects have been launched in Himachal Pradesh;